Claims 1 to 7, 9, 10 and 12 to 19 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16 are independent. Favorable review and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

As a formal matter, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an indication in the next communication acknowledging Applicant's claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and that all certified copies of the priority document have been received.

Turning now to the merits of the Office Action, Claims 1 to 7, 9, 10 and 12 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,307,640 (Motegi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,348,972 (Taniguchi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to authentication for the printing of print data. According to the invention, a first information processor transfers job data, including print data and attribute information which is used to start printing of the print data to an output device (e.g., a printer), where the information is stored. The first processor also notifies a second information processor of the attribute information sent to the output device and identification information identifying the output device. The second information processor then sends the attribute information to the output device identified in the identification information. The output device compares the stored attribute information to the attribute information received from the second processor, and if they match, the stored print data is printed out. As a result, the print data is only printed out upon receipt by the printer of the proper attribute (authentication) information from the second information processor.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a job processing system comprising first and second information processors, and an output device, wherein the first information processor comprises job issuing means for transferring to the output device job data, including print data and attribute information which is used to start outputting the print data, and notifying means for notifying the second information processor of the attribute information for the job data transferred from the first information processor to the output device and identification information identifying the output device to which the job data has been transferred, wherein the second information processor comprises job execution designating means for sending execution designation information including the notified attribute information to the output device identified by the notified identification information, and the output device comprises storage means for storing received job data, and control means for outputting print data stored in the storage means if the attribute information of the execution designation information corresponds to the attribute information stored in the storage means.

Amended independent Claim 7 is a method claim, amended independent Claim 9 is a system claim, and amended independent Claim 10 is a control method for a system claim, each of which substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Claim 12 is directed more specifically to the printer and thus is a printing apparatus connected to a network, comprising first receiving unit adapted to receive print data and authentication information for executing printing of the print data from a first client terminal on the network, storage unit adapted to store received print data, print job managing unit adapted to store and manage the authentication information for the received print data, second receiving unit adapted to receive, from a second client terminal on the network to which the first client terminal has sent the identification information for

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identifying the printing apparatus, authentication information which is sent from the first client terminal to the second client terminal, the second client terminal sending the authentication information to the printing apparatus which has been identified by the identifying information, and printing unit adapted to print, when the authentication information received by the second receiving unit corresponds to the authentication information received by the first receiving unit, the print data stored in the storage unit which corresponds to the authentication information.

Amended independent Claim 16 is a control method for a printing apparatus substantially corresponding to Claim 12.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a first information processor notifying a second information processor of attribute information sent to an output device by the first processor and identification information identifying the output device, the second processor sending the notified authentication information to the output device identified by the notified identification information, and the output device outputting print data received from the first processor if the attribute information received from the second information processor corresponds to the attribute information received from the first information processor.

Motegi is merely seen to disclose that a user submits an image file to a host computer for printing, where the image file is stored in the host computer. The host computer provides a unique job number to the user's terminal, where the unique job number is displayed. The user can then retrieve and print the image file by entering the unique job number into any printer, whereby the image file is downloaded to the printer by

the host computer and printed. Thus, Motegi is clearly different from the present invention in its operation since the user's terminal (which will be assumed to correspond to a first processor), while sending print data to the host computer (which will be assumed to correspond to the claimed output device), fails to send the print data and an identifier of the host computer to a second processor.

Taniguchi is not seen to add anything to overcome the foregoing deficiencies of Motegi. In this regard, Taniguchi is along the lines of Motegi in that a user, at a printer, selects one of a plurality of computers in which print job data is stored, where the print job data is transmitted to the printer. However, Taniguchi is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Motegi, would have resulted in at least the feature of a first information processor notifying a second information processor of attribute information sent to an output device by the first processor and identification information identifying the output device, the second processor sending the notified authentication information to the output device identified by the notified identification information, and the output device outputting print data received from the first processor if the attribute information received from the second information processor corresponds to the attribute information received from the first information processor.

In view of the foregoing, independent Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant
Edward A. Kmett
Registration No.: 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 95049v1

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